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TAKE UP THE WEAPON OF STATISTICS AND STRIVE
TO OPPOSE RIGHTIST OPPORTUNISM SO AS TO
PROTECT THE GENERAL LINE OF THE PARTY

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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TAKE UP THE WEAPON OF STATISTICS AND STRIVE
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[This is a translation of an article written by Chia Ch'i-yun which appears in Chi-hu yu T'ung-chi (Planning and Statistics), No 12, Peiping, 23 September 1959, pages 13-15.]

The tenth anniversary of the founding of the great People's Republic of China is drawing near. During the last brilliant decade, the people of the various races throughout the nation, under the bright leadership of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao, and with an heroic attitude that makes high mountains bow and great rivers yield, have achieved a glorious victory on the various fronts in socialist revolution and construction.

Now, in answering the call of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party, the people throughout the country show a high fighting spirit and awareness. Through that spirit they will further raise the victorious banners of the general line, the great leap forward, and the people's communes, and oppose right-inclined thought and exert all their efforts to stir up a still higher tide of large-scale increasing production and practicing economy movement. They are also determined to win a more glorious new victory in celebration of the tenth national birthday.

China reveals a wonderful situation at the present time. Under it, our statistical work should, in accordance with the spirit of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party, fully develop its positive role in serving current struggle with respect to political affairs and production.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party has produced irrefutable facts to prove the success

of the great leap forward, the superiority of the people's communes, and the perfect correctness of the general line. The carrying out of these aspects has demonstrated the great determination and wisdom of the 650,000,000 industrious and courageous Chinese people. They are the great epochal events resulting from creatively combining the universal truth of Marxism and Leninism with actual conditions in China, which was done by the Party and the great leader of the country's various races, Chairman Mao.

The imperialists and their servile followers have, since the start of these events, made diabolic accusations and attacks on the general line of socialist construction, the great leap forward and the movement of people's communization. They have made a still louder cry subsequent to the publication of documents pertaining to the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party.

On our own revolutionary team there are also a few right-inclined opportunists who have taken advantage of temporary and partial difficulties and defects in our work, which were already overcome or were in the process of being quickly overcome to utter erroneous talk, deny the great significance of the general line and to criticize the movements of the great leap forward and the people's communization as by calling them "fanatic movements of the small propertied class." We should launch counter attacks against these offenses. This is a very important political task of the Party and the people throughout the country at the present time.

The entire body of statistical personnel should be mobilized at once to take up the special weapon of statistical work, and fully utilize the statistical data at our command to concretely reflect in various aspects the great successes of the general line, the great leap forward and the people's communes in accordance with the spirit of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party.

The basic objective of the general line of the Party is to rapidly develop a socialist economy in China. Under the bright guidance of the general line, the speed of development of the socialist economy in China in the past year or more not only never happened in old China, but it is also unparalleled in any of the capitalist countries. We should base our work on this central objective in order to sort out a series of statistical data to prove the perfect correctness of the Party line.

The movement of people's communization is an inevitable result of the development of social productive power in China. It has already demonstrated great superiority in developing production and improving the people's livelihood in somewhat over one year. We should utilize the various relevant data to reflect such a great achievement. Besides we should utilize all kinds of relevant statistical materials to show the great successes achieved in the all-round leap forward which has as its key lever the development of steel production. And, the data should be used to further analyse the proportional relationships among the various sectors in the national economy, thereby refuting the fallacy of "economic imbalances." In a word, wherever our enemies within and outside the country and the right-inclined opportunists have made attacks on us, we should make counter attacks so as to protect the Party's general line, the great leap forward and the people's communes.

The Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party called upon the people throughout the country to further expand the movement of increasing production and practicing economy so as to effect fulfillment ahead of schedule or approach fulfillment of the principal targets set in the Second Five Year Plan [within the next year]. At present, an imposing movement to increase production and practice economy has already widely spread on the various fronts in China. Characterized by a roaring high tide and incessant enthusiastic waves, the proliferating revolutionary emulation and leap forward situation can be seen everywhere.

Soon we will enter the fourth quarter, making it only three months to the end of this year. "One inch of time is one inch of gold." Every minute is precious, and although the situation is very good, the preciousness of time must be considered. With a view to successfully fulfilling the planned targets in 1959, i.e., the principal targets designated to be fulfilled by 1962 in the Second Five-Year Plan, the various level leading organs of the Party and the government have been checking the progress of plan implementation every ten days, every week, or even every day. And, they have been employing all the means available to exploit potential power, overcome weak links, and well perform the work essential to the preparation of the plan for 1960.

In view of this situation, the statistical department should continue to take the central task of the Party as the key lever to work out statistics pertaining to the progress in

various sectors and quickly reflect the situation of plan implementation in order to facilitate the timely adoption of measures to ensure the fulfillment of planned targets according to schedule or ahead of schedule.

For the purpose of promoting the emulation campaign of the broad masses, we should widely practice statistical comparison and criticism, erect red flags, implant signals, and carry on propaganda and stimulation in order to shape up an enthusiastic atmosphere to follow the progressive, compare with the progressives and catch up with the progressives. In addition, we should vigorously expand investigation and research work, and especially strengthen investigation and research in comprehensive balances, and make an overall penetrating analysis of the achievements attained in the present stage of the economy as well as of the prevailing problems. Great efforts should be made to improve the quality of analyses and reports, especially the political ideological level of analyses and reports, so as to coordinate statistical data with the Party's policy viewpoints.

The above is the central task of current statistical work and also the political task of the statistical departments. In order to thoroughly carry out such a central task and political task, the various-level statistical departments should relentlessly criticize the right-inclined laggard attitudes, and go all-out and press persistently forward to stir up a new high tide in the leap forward of statistical work.

Viewing the general situation in the country, statistical work in 1959 has followed the great leap forward of 1958 in order to maintain a continuous leap forward situation and, in fact, has leaped forward on a more practical ground. The great majority of the Party's committees and people's councils in various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions have made decisions and issued instructions pertaining to the strengthening of statistical work, and the statistical organs on the various levels have generally achieved further strengthening in their organization. Under the leadership of the various-level party committees, the investigation and research work of statistical organs in various localities has been greatly activated and has maintained a closer relationship with industrial and agricultural production [than it had before].

In the rural areas, there has been promotion and strengthening of statistical work in various people's communes in accordance with the instructions of the central government on the reorganization of communes and the promotion of correct statistical work in them. Many new, successful experiences pertaining to the survey of agricultural output were acquired in the summer harvesting season in 1959. The experience of Hunan provincial teams in doing a rural specialized occupations survey has been increasingly respected and adopted in different places, and has revealed a new development.

In basic level units, many localities in the urban areas there has been practiced the combination of strengthening the work of enterprise control with the vigorous reorganization of original entry and the statistical system. The various-level statistical organs have not only worked out a larger number of statistical reports with better quality, but have also started strengthening research on overall balances. This is the basic situation in statistical work in China today. This situation is quite conducive to our thoroughly carrying out the spirit of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party, and ensuring the fulfillment of current central tasks of statistical work, as well as other statistical work.

However, there have also appeared right-inclined, laggard attitudes in our statistical work in the past. Particularly outstanding is the fact that some statistical workers have stressed onerous responsibilities, difficulties and special regional conditions, and requested mitigation of responsibilities, the lowering of requirements, or an increase in the number of personnel, as if no other methods worthy to be taken existed. This is an old problem which prevailed in our statistical work several years ago.

It was already solved in accordance with the guidance of the general line in 1958, and the statistical work in 1958 was very good. Was that work the result of reducing statistical work responsibilities? No. On the contrary, the responsibilities of statistical work were then greatly increased, including not only the carrying out of central tasks statistics, but also the wide-spread practice of comparison and criticism. Was that good work the result of increasing the number of personnel? Again, no. Some statistical organs even employed fewer workers.

Then, what was the reason? The basic reason was that the workers had exerted a high revolutionary spirit in improving working attitudes and working methods and relying on the broad masses under the leadership of the Party. This was a great achievement attained on the front of statistical work in 1958. Not much time has passed since then. But some statistical workers have already forgotten the past experiences and lessons. They have wavered in regard to the methods practiced in 1958, and their old thoughts and feelings have been revived. This is a problem deserving our serious attention.

It is true that our responsibilities in 1959 are relatively heavy. But these are not based on the subjective requirements of leading statistical organs. Instead, they are objective requirements for guiding and planning work by the Party and the government and their fulfillment should be assured. In the event that the strength and responsibilities are not commensurable, under certain conditions there may be a proper increase in working force. But this is not a positive measure. The most positive method is to expand the 1958 great leap forward spirit in statistical work and continue to go all-out and press persistently forward to further enforce the mass line under the leadership of the Party. By doing so, the tasks for 1959 can be successfully accomplished and the central tasks can be well carried out.

Another right-inclined laggard feeling prevalent in our current statistical work is that in some localities, departments and enterprise units the statistics on central task progress and statistical comparison and criticisms have been neglected. The statistics on these aspects are powerful weapons of statistical work in servicing industrial and agricultural production and the mass movement, and are important experiences acquired in the 1958 great leap forward in statistical work. They lead our statistical work to the front line of industrial and agricultural productive undertakings, making statistical workers become the Party's "detectives" and "red flag holders".

Of course, such work is stringent and difficult. But, it is because of its tenseness and hardship that the majority of statistical personnel deem it as an honor. Those who embrace right-inclined thoughts do not welcome such a glorious task. They are persistently thinking of living a dull life like that in "deep mountains and old temples." Once

opportunities are available, they retreat from the frontal battle line.

Because of a lack of experience, in the course of compiling statistics on central task progress and undertaking statistical comparisons and criticisms, in 1958, there arose some defects. These defects, however, arose from methodological problems, and are capable of being improved. We must not waver in proceeding on these two kinds of work; indeed, we should make efforts to further develop them.

To be sure, in further expanding these two kinds of work there may be difficulties in some localities, departments and enterprise units. But, we should not be held back by such difficulties. Instead, we should fully mobilize the masses and vigorously undertake measures to make overall arrangements for statistical work in connection with the central tasks and to overcome difficulties.

Recently, in some localities even the task of making statistical reports as prescribed by the State has not been consistently carried out; with omission of reports being frequent. This is another indication of right-inclined feelings. During the great leap forward in statistical work in 1958, the various provincial and municipal organs could present monthly reports by telegram within five days of the following month. Because of heavier tasks this year, the deadline of submitting reports has been set as the sixth of the following month, but there are still some regional organs which have been unable to submit reports on time.

The late submission of statistical reports by some special districts, hsien and basic-level units has greatly delayed the fulfillment of some provincial and national targets, thereby affecting the leading and planning work of the Party and the Government. It cannot be denied that the task of making monthly reports in 1959 is heavier than before. But, it is not much when compared with the increasing tasks on the industrial and agricultural fronts.

On the basis of the great leap forward in 1958 industrial and agricultural production in 1959 will increase from 10 percent to several times that amount. We also acquired abundant experiences in statistical work during the 1958 great leap forward. Hence, why should not our work be increased in accordance with the developing situation? We statistical workers, like the broad masses of industrial and agricultural

workers, should also exert all efforts to overcome difficulties and ensure the timely fulfillment of different targets.

The above-mentioned right-inclined, laggard feelings are the main obstacles to the continuous leap forward in our statistical work. For the purpose of ensuring an all-round execution of the current central tasks in statistical work and also in our general statistical work all the statistical workers should, in accordance with the spirit of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, seriously criticize and thoroughly overcome the above-mentioned right-inclined laggard feelings. They should also overcome the thought of "working on statistics for the sake of statistics itself", and raise higher the glorious banners of going all-out and pressing persistently forward to carry out a more, faster, better and cheaper socialist construction.

We should also further implement the principle of combining the work of specialized statistical organs with that of relying on the broad masses under the leadership of the Party, and continue to develop the attitudes of making statistical work follow the direction of the political movement and the productive movement, and follow the needs of the leading party and governmental organs, so as to bring forth greater achievements and join with the people throughout the nation to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the great People's Republic of China.